



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

MAILED

JAN 17 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Seiji Kashioka :
Application No. 10/593,889 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: September 23, 2006 : UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(B)
Title: METRONOME RESPONDING TO :
MOVING TEMPO :
:

This is a decision on the petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b), filed on December 22, 2011, to revive the above-identified application.

This petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) is **DISMISSED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed May 24, 2011, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three months. An after-final amendment was received on August 23, 2011, and an advisory action was mailed on September 22, 2011. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) were requested, and no further responses were received. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on August 25, 2011.

A grantable petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) The reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed;
- (2) The petition fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(m);
- (3) A statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information

where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional, and;

- (4) Any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d)) required pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

With this petition, Petitioner has submitted a portion of the petition fee and the proper statement of unintentional delay. Petitioner has further submitted an amendment.

Petition fee requirement

The fee for filing a petition to revive an unintentionally abandoned application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) is presently set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(m) as being \$930 for an other than large entity. With this petition, Petitioner included \$810. Moreover, the electronic file does not contain a general authorization to charge any fee deficiencies to a Deposit Account.

The payment of the required petition fee *in full* is a prerequisite to the filing of a petition to revive pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137. Therefore, consideration of the merits of the petition before receipt of the filing fee would be premature. See M.P.E.P. § 711.03(c)(III)(B), which sets forth, *in toto*:

35 U.S.C. 41(a)(7) provides that a petition for the revival of an unintentionally abandoned application or for the unintentionally delayed payment of the issue fee must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m), unless the petition is filed under 35 U.S.C. 133 or 151 (on the basis of unavoidable delay), in which case the fee is set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l). Thus, unless the circumstances warrant the withdrawal of the holding of abandonment (i.e., it is determined that the application is not properly held abandoned), **the payment of a petition fee to obtain the revival of an abandoned application is a statutory prerequisite to revival of the abandoned application, and cannot be waived** (emphasis added).

In addition, the phrase "[o]n filing" in 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(7) means that the petition fee is required for the filing (and not merely the grant) of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137. See H.R. Rep. No. 542, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. 6 (1982), reprinted in 1982 U.S.C.C.A.N. 770 ("[t]he fees set forth in this section are due on filing the petition"). Therefore, the Office: (A) will not refund the petition fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(l) or 1.17(m), regardless of whether the petition under 37 CFR 1.137 is dismissed or denied; and (B) will not reach the merits of any petition under 37 CFR 1.137 lacking the requisite petition fee.

The phrase "unless the petition is filed under [35 U.S.C.] 133 or 151" signifies that petitions to revive filed on the basis of "unavoidable" delay (under 35 U.S.C. 133 or 151) are a subset of petitions to revive filed on the basis of unintentional delay. That is, "unavoidable" delay and "unintentional" delay are not alternatives; "unavoidable" delay is the epitome of "unintentional" delay. Any petition to revive an abandoned application or lapsed patent must meet the minimal "unintentional" delay threshold, and an applicant need only pay the fee specified in 37 CFR 1.17(l) (rather than the fee specified in 37 CFR 1.17(m)) if the petition is also accompanied by an adequate showing that the entire delay in filing the required reply, from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a), was unavoidable.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, any response to this decision must be submitted within **TWO MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are permitted. The reply should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b)". This is not a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C § 704.

Petitioner must submit an additional \$120 (\$930 less the \$810 already submitted) if he wishes for the Office to consider this petition under the unintentional standard.

Any subsequent filing pertaining to the abandonment of this application should indicate that the attorney handling this matter is Paul Shanoski, and may be submitted by mail,¹ hand-delivery,² or facsimile.³ Registered users of EFS-Web may alternatively submit a response to this decision via EFS-Web.⁴

If responding by mail, Petitioner is advised not to place the undersigned's name on the envelope. Only the information that appears in the footnote should be included - adding anything else to the address will delay the delivery of the response to the undersigned.

¹ Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

² Customer Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulaney Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

³ (571) 273-8300: please note this is a central facsimile number.

⁴ <https://sportal.uspto.gov/authenticate/authenticateuserlocalepf.html>

Telephone inquiries **regarding this decision** should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225.⁵

Paul Shanoski
Paul Shanoski
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

5 Petitioner will note that all practice before the Office should be in writing, and the action of the Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.2. As such, Petitioner is reminded that no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for any further action(s) of Petitioner.